



CITY OF GLOUCESTER

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY May 21, 2014 - 7:00 PM

City Hall, Kyrouz Auditorium

Robert Gulla Chair

Members Present: Robert Gulla Chair, Barry Gradwohl, Charles Anderson, Helene Shaw- Kwasi, John Feener, Robert Sherman, Ann Jo Jackson- **Absent**

Staff: Stacy Carpenter- Acting Conservation Agent, Pauline Doody, Recording Clerk

Mr. Gulla announced that Ken Whittiker has been hired as Gloucester's new Conservation Agent. He is an attorney and has done work as an online consultant for MACC. He will be start within the next two weeks.

I. 1-5 minutes, review of amended, updated or final information, status reviews, modifications, signing decisions etc.

Non- Public Discussion: Designated Leash Free dog areas on beaches. Formal recommendation requested by City.

Ms. Carpenter stated that dogs can be damaging to beaches. Gathered research and with speaking with other municipalities indicates that dogs are allowed on beaches on leash.

Mr. Feener suggested having dogs allowed on the beach at low tide only. They must be on leash from curbside to high tide mark on the beach. At low tide the dogs would not be inclined to go toward the dunes and will give the owner more time to control the dog.

Mr. Gulla stated he believes dogs could go on the beach on leash.

Mr. Sherman stated he believes that dogs should not be allowed on the beach at any time.

The commission discussed the sensitive nature of the beaches, bird migration, & potential long term damage.

Mr. Gulla requested that Ms. Carpenter to craft a recommendation from the discussion held this evening and submit it to the city.

Discussion: 3R Wise Place, Enforcement of Conservation Restriction Requested (Update)

Ms. Carpenter reported that items have been removed from the site. There has been a request from the applicant for signs to be posted. DPW will hang the signs if the commission pays for them.

Attorney Joel Favazza, 111 Main Street

Attorney Favazza stated his client is pushing for enforcement. Cars are parked on site. The zoning permit states no storage outside of the garage.

Anthony Frontiero. 4 Wise Place

Mr. Frontiero stated that the site is a small congested area. It is used as a turn around and for spillover parking. It has been used as such for 34 years

Mr. Gulla stated that if the site is near a resource then it has to be fixed and protected. He advised Mr. Frontiero that he would have to get city permission to continue using the site as he has. The lot is under the commission purview.

Mr. Feener suggested a site walk to determine the property lines and resource boundaries should be marked.

The commission concurred.

Discussion: Extension for #28-1897: Management Plan for Niles Pond/Brace Cove: To continue management plan.

No one was present for the discussion. The commission moved forward with the meeting.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT - No

III Block 1* New Projects

A.) NEW NOI: 25 Wingersheek Road: Submitted by Samuel Saccardo
(Represented by Wetlands and Land Management for the construction a
seasonal stair and boardwalk. (Map 257, Lot 250)

Presenter: Bill Manuell, Wetlands & Land Management

Mr. Manuell explained that the commission had approved this project a while ago and it is complete. Originally approved was a 3 foot wide rollout walkway to traverse the dune. The project is to construct an elevated walkway with a seasonal stairway made of nontoxic material. Where the footpath is presently there would be planted beach grass.

Commission Comments:

Mr. Feener stated that there would be no concrete allowed, work to be done by hand and a tarp to be placed underneath and along the sides as each section is constructed to collect debris.

Mr. Gulla commented on the scouring between the two properties and asked for beach nourishment and beach grass to be planted

Chris McCarthy, 15 Wyoma Road

Mr. McCarthy informed the board that 1000 plugs of beach grass will be planted in the dugout area on the Saccardo property.

Public Comment: None

Conditions:

- Tarp to catch debris as work being done underneath each section of walkway
- Hand dug
- No concrete used

Motion: To approve the project at 25 Wingersheek Road for the construction a seasonal stair and boardwalk. (Map 257, Lot 250)

1st: John Feener

2nd: Barry Gradwohl

Vote: Approved 6-0

B.) NEW RDA: 20 Brace Cove: Submitted by Robert Koslowsky (Represented by Wetlands and Land Management Inc) for the installation of a residential well. (Map 134, Lot 32)

Presenter: Bill Manuell. Wetlands & Land Management

Mr. Manuell stated that the driven well to be installed is to be used for lawn irrigation. The rig will be backed up across the lawn and pounds steel about 20-30 feet down and water will be pumped into the shed. There are no spoils with this type of well.

Commission Comments

Mr. Gulla asked if the wetland could be drained.

Mr. Manuell stated that the wetland is driven by surface hydrology. It is surface water. They are looking for a sand lens within the till layer.

Mr. Gulla stated that documentation stating that the wetland will not be affected is needed. He requested a third party reviewer to review the plan and stated that the well will not affect the wetland. The wetland is extensive this area.

Mr. Sherman stated that is it as poor use of water that could be taken from a wetland to water a lawn. It must be proved that it will not affect the wetland.

Mr. Manuell asked the commission if a deeper well be more acceptable to the commission.

Mr. Feener asked to see a plan that is the least impactful to the environment.

The commission discussed in length the impacts of a shallow well versus a deeper well and the best location for a well. It was agreed that the public hearing be continued so the applicant could gather more detailed information.

Public Comment: None

Motion: To continue the RDA for 20 Brace Cove or the installation of a residential well. (Map 134, Lot 32) to June 4, 2014

1st: Barry Gradwohl

2nd: John Feener

Vote: Approved 6-0

E.) NEW NOI: 548 Washington Street: Submitted by Steven Schwartz (Represented by Mill River Consulting) for the replacement of a deck and stair system associated with a single family house. (Map 111, Lot 56)

Presenter: Dan Ottenheimer, Mill River Consulting

Mr. Ottenheimer explained that the project is to remove the deck that was around the old swimming pool and rebuild off the house. The deck will be 132 feet away from the riverfront. The new deck is an open design and farther away from the resource. The old deck area will be restored with plantings. The old deck was 890 s.f and the new deck is 525 s.f. DEP had no comments.

Commission Comments:

Mr. Feener asked that the numbers be added to the plan. He stated that the underlay of the pool has been compacted; he asked that an additional 1 ½ feet out from deck be stone, 12 inches deep to capture any runoff.

Public Comment: None

Conditions:

- Numbers added to plan with signature
- Installed a retention area/buffer to control runoff into riverfront

Motion: To approve the project at 548 Washington Street for the replacement of a deck and stair system associated with a single family house. (Map 111, Lot 56)

1st: John Feener

2nd: Helene Shaw- Kwasie

Vote: Approved 6-0

IV Block II* Continued Projects

A.) Continued RDA: 5 Salt Island Lane: Submitted by Joe McDonough (Represented by the Bliss Company General Contractors) for the purpose of putting weep holes and repairing a seawall. (Map 176, Lot 63)

Presenter: Dean Bliss, Bliss Company General Contractors, Westport, Mass

Mr. Bliss stated the seawall needs repair. The cracks will be filled with hydraulic cement by hand by a mason. Small pvc weep holes will be added and the loose stones on top of the wall will be restored.

Commission Comments:

Mr. Gradwohl stated that filter fabric will be needed along with the weep holes.

Mr. Feener stated that breaking the large piece of concrete up was not part of the NOI.

Mr. Gulla stated that machinery is not allowed on the water side and that special concrete needs to be used so it can dry properly before the next tide cycle washes it away. The maintenance of the wall can move forward. The footing is a concern. You may have to add a construction sequence to the application.

Public Comment: None

Conditions:

- 6 weep holes
- More inclusive construction sequence

Motion: Negative determination for the project at 5 Salt Island Lane for the purpose of putting weep holes and repairing a seawall. (Map 176, Lot 63)

1st: Helene Shaw- Kwasie

2nd: Barry Gradwohl

Vote: Approved 6-0

B.) Continued NOI: 15 Mount Locust Place: Submitted by James Davis (Represented by Hayes Engineering) for the purpose of installing two retaining seawalls (Map 140, Lot 25).

Motion: To continue the project at 15 Mount Locust Place for the purpose of installing two retaining seawalls (Map 140, Lot 25) June 18, 2014.

1st: Helen Shaw- Kwasie

2nd: John Feener

Vote: Approved 6-0

C.) Continued NOI: 21 Bayle Lane: Submitted by Angela Ciampa (Represented by DeRosa Environmental) for the construction of a boardwalk. (Map 257, Lot 10)
CONTINUED AT THE REQUEST OF THE APPLICANT TO AUGUST 6, 2014.
APPLICANT WILL RENOTIFY ABUTTERS AND RUN A NEW LEGAL AD.

Motion: To continue 21 Bayle Lane for the construction of a boardwalk. (Map 257, Lot 10) to August 6, 2014.

1st: Helene Shaw-Kwasie

2nd: Robert Sherman

Vote: Approved 5-0

V. AS TIME PERMITS: COMMISSION BUSINESS

A. Requests for Letter Permits/Modifications.

1.) #28-2273 210 Eastern Avenue

Ms. Carpenter stated that Poole Construction originally had a drive through. That will be removed and the building expanded. It will be expanded away from the wetland. Plantings will be added where the drive through was. The numbers are essentially the same.

Mr. Feener stated he would like Seekamp Environmental to review the plantings.

Motion: To continue the modification request for 210 Eastern Avenue to June 4, 2014.

1st: Robert Sherman

2nd: Barry Gradwohl

Vote: Approved 6-0

VI. AGENT'S REPORT ON VIOLATIONS: Updates/Investigations

Ms. Carpenter updated the commission on the following violations.

1.) 84 Riverview (Clearing) some cutting has been done- trying to find out who what and why

2.) 44 Sumner- neighbor dispute- keeping of a compost pile on a bank

3.) Myrtle Square (Dumping)- on going- dumping wheel barrow of concrete

4.) Marshall Farm (Filling, Dumping, Building)- site is active - went out with Councilor Steve Leblanc because of complaints from abutters. The site is up against Jones River. The owner wants to do extensive work. He is under a cease and desist.

5.) 133 Essex Ave (Composting and storage in Buffer) - cutting in back yard. Site is covered in bittersweet

6.) Good Harbor (Sign posts and signs in dune)- telephone poles have been installed by the DPW at Good Harbor Beach. The interpretation of what they can do is liberal.

7.) Long Beach (Creation of a sand ramp to match steps) – DPW is looking to see who did the work.

8.) 4 Niles Pond (Update)- the wall looks like it has been built higher than it was originally.

9) 615 Western Avenue (Update) was active- did not find a resource area. It is not jurisdictional.

Emergency detention basin was created 10 years ago.

10.) 6 Andrews (filling)-did not see any issues. It will be before the commission with an application from Jane Rose

11.) 47 Bray Street (Clearing)- will be before the commission.

12.) 20 Brace Cove (Update)- paperwork is done.

VII: CERTIFICATES OF COMPLIANCE

#28-2092 17 Page Street

#28-1429 21 Great Republic(duplicate)OOC

#28-1429 21 Great Republic COC

Motion: To approved the COC's for #28-2092 17 Page Street, #28-1429 21 Great Republic(duplicate)OOC, #28-1429 21 Great Republic COC

1st: Helene Shaw- Kwasie

2nd: Charles Anderson

Vote: Approved 6-0

Motion: To adjourn

1st: John Feener

2nd: Robert Sherman

Vote: Approved 6-0